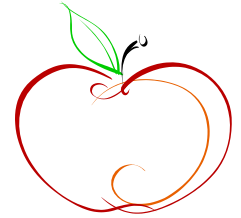


Academy of Personalized Learning, A Charter School

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Apple News



April News



April 1, 2010

Greetings from APL! Hopefully you are enjoying Spring Break, whether you are relaxing, pursuing additional educational opportunities with your family, or perhaps a combination of the two. We hope the break offers some time for rejuvenation, as STAR testing for students in grades 2-11 will be a major focus for our students when they return to school. In recent years STAR testing has become of ever greater importance to the viability, financial health and survival of schools. This trend will continue into the future; it is especially significant in these difficult economic times when school funding is being drastically reduced. With this said, it is important to our school that our students do their best on their STAR tests. All necessary materials, water, and snacks will be provided. However, please feel free to bring a favorite book for your student to read silently when finished with testing and remember to have students get plenty of rest the night before. If you value the materials and services that we provide, then please help us to earn good marks on the tests so we can continue to build our school and deliver the best education possible for our families.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a **Parent Survey** asking for your feedback about our program and possible course offerings for next school year. Please fill out the survey and return it to your teacher or APL by **Friday, April 30th**. Thanks in advance for your thoughtful responses!



Students in the Spotlight



Jeremy Muri, a senior at APL, has had a busy final year of high school. He has been involved in an independent study/home school program since he was in 8th grade, and he has found success using the OdysseyWare online curriculum for his core subjects. Jeremy has grown as a student these past 5 years, as witnessed by his motivation to succeed in his school work, as well as his work at a part-time job he's had for the past 2 years. A big part of his time commitment this year has been his involvement in the ROP Firefighting program. Jeremy is enjoying the experience and he is looking forward to hopefully working with CAL Fire this summer and enrolling at Shasta College in the fall so he can continue the firefighting program there.

Alex Mullikin is an 8th grade student at APL who deserves both recognition and praise for her hard work and commitment to her education. Facing the loss of most of her vision as a young teenager, Alex has persevered, refusing to allow this obstacle to stop her from gaining the skills necessary to be an independent adult. Alex has a passion for animals, especially those unwanted. She has adopted and cared for many animals that would have lost their lives were it not for her concern. Alex is an avid snowboarder, as well as a devoted and loyal friend. She participates fully in life despite hurdles that would cause most of us to give up. Alex NEVER gives up, and she never whines or complains (at least not at school), and she deserves to know that all of us at APL think she is nothing short of amazing, a shining example of determination and spirit.

Faith Yuan, a 3rd grader, loves studying science and learning about the chicks and silkworms that are being raised at APL's Learning Center. Faith also cherishes the time she spends in art classes at APL, where she has constructed everything from a leprechaun to a clay watermelon with seeds inside. She has shown a strong talent and love for gymnastics, advancing from the beginning level to the competition team over the span of two years. During her spare time, Faith enjoys reading books, playing violin, spending time with her family, singing, and playing with Oreo, her guinea pig. With a contagious smile and a joyful spirit, Faith brings enthusiasm and fun wherever she goes!

Volume 2, Issue 9

April/May events

- ✓ Teen Writers Group
- ✓ Home School Skate
- ✓ Formal Dinner/ Dance
- ✓ Energy Calendar Contest
- ✓ Poetry Contest
- ✓ Dragonwood Celtic Faire
- ✓ Pirates of Penzance
- ✓ Dog-A-Thon
- ✓ APL Graduation Ceremonies

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School Business



The Academy of Personalized Learning will be conducting its annual **Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program** for all students enrolled in **grades 2 through 11**.

Your teacher has scheduled specific testing times with you for one testing week, and either the morning or afternoon session, depending on your child's grade level. If you need to check on when your child is registered, please call your teacher. Dates and sessions are:

WEEK 1: Tuesday, April 20; Wednesday, April 21; and Thursday, April 22

-Or-

WEEK 2: Tuesday, April 27; Wednesday, April 28; and Thursday, April 29

Elementary students test in the mornings: 9:00 am to noon.

High school students test in the afternoons: 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Burney STAR testing will be Monday and Tuesday, April 19 and 20, 9:00 am-1:00 pm at the Solid Rock Four Square Church, 20343 Tamarack Road in Burney.

If you are not certain which testing time your child is scheduled for, or have scheduling conflicts, please check with your teacher. If you have any questions or need further assistance with directions, please feel free to call the APL school office at 222-9275.

In order to accommodate STAR testing, **site based classes will be canceled from April 19 through April 30**. These are **Independent Study Days**, which means that during this time, students who normally attend APL classes at our school site will be assigned independent study work to be completed at home.

The **California Physical Fitness Test** for students in **grades 5, 7, and 9** will be given during STAR testing at APL. 9th graders must pass the test or take 4 years of high school PE, instead of two. **There will be a physical fitness test make-up day at Kids Kingdom Park on May 19th at 9 am**. Students can also elect to participate in the **Presidential Physical Fitness Test**. Fliers listing the events for both tests and the fitness standards were included in the March newsletter and are available at APL.

APL would like to know if we have students in the 5th or 6th grade interested in attending camp at the **Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES Camp)** this spring. The cost of the camp is \$170 per student for 4-5 days and \$115 for 2.5 days. If there are students at least 16 years old, or parents, who would like to serve as cabin counselors, please let us know. Call Lynn at 222-9275 for more information.

The students whose names were drawn for **Good Apple Awards** in March were **Darik Gardner** and **Mako Lentz**. These students were cited with "good citizenship" and given tickets which were then selected in the monthly drawing. Congratulations to our "good apples!"

Passport Club will meet on Wednesday, **April 14th** from 11-11:50 pm in Room 1. The country of focus will be Kenya.

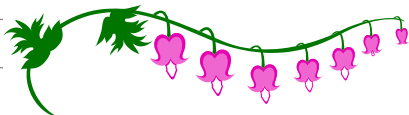
The chicken eggs have hatched and we've been studying the growth and development of the chicks. Duck eggs are next on the horizon at APL!

The **Oral Health Assessment Form for 1st grade students in the 2010-11 school year is due by September 15, 2010**. You can get the form from your teacher or the office. If you have questions or can't meet the deadline, contact Sherina at the office, 222-9275.

Immunizations for kindergarteners should be completed within the first thirty days of enrollment. If you have questions about immunizations, please contact Sherina.

Student IDs: For an APL student identification card, please contact Sherina at the office, 222-9275.

Work Permit applications are available at the office. Parents can fill out the request and drop it off at APL or fax it to Sherina, 222-9281.



Library News

Scholastic Book Catalogs are available at the APL library. Scholastic book orders are a great way for you to get new books, CHEAP! Each order that you place also helps to buy books for our library and for our students. You can place your orders either through our library with a check, or online with a credit/debit card. To order online go to <http://clubs.scholastic.com/parentordering/>. Then you need to enter our school username: aplibrary, and password: bookorders. If you have questions, contact Kimberly at the APL library.

"In the case of good books, the point is not how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you."

Mortimer Adler

Join **'Friends of the Library'** to help accomplish tasks in support of our library. Sign up at the APL library.

The theme of this year's **reading incentive program** is **"Take Off With Reading."** Pick up your reading "Flight Logs" at the APL Library or from your teacher.

The **APL Book Clubs** will meet as follows: The **Fantasy Book Club** will meet Tuesday, **April 13th at 4:00 pm** to discuss *Everwild* by Neal Shusterman. The books can be checked out at the APL library. Due to STAR testing in April, the Mystery Book Club and General Book Club are not going to meet until May. Stay tuned for information regarding the meeting dates and book selections for these groups.



April/May Events



Come join the Redding Library's **Teen Writers Group** which will meet Sunday, **April 11th** from 2:00-3:00 pm in the Foundation Reading Room at the Redding Library. This month the discussion will focus on writer's block, character and plot development, and favorite books. Poets, novelists, short story writers, or just avid readers age 13-18 are welcome.

It's time for the California Energy Commission's **2011 Energy Calendar Art Contest!** The calendar is a selection of drawings done by students statewide in grades 3-8. Entries are judged on their relevance to energy and conservation ideas for today and the future. All participating students will receive a California Energy Commission certificate of participation. Winning students will each receive a \$250 U.S. Savings Bond. For ideas, visit www.energyquest.ca.gov. Artwork should be horizontal, no larger than 16"x20" or smaller than 8"x10". Use crayons, felt pens, poster paints, watercolors or grease pencils on white paper or art board. Twelve entries will be chosen to illustrate the calendar for the year 2011. Entries must be received by **April 12**. See Lynn at APL for entry form which includes parental permission.

APL's spring musical performance, **The Pirates of Penzance**, will be **Friday, May 14th and Saturday, May 15th at 7:00 pm** at the Center for Spiritual Living, 1905 Hartnell Avenue, Redding. Tickets will go on sale the first week of April and all seats will be \$5.00 each. See Lynn at APL to purchase your tickets.

Home School Skate is the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 3-5 pm. The dates will be **4/14** and **5/12**. Gateway Unified School District hosts the program, open to all home schooling families. Cost is \$3 per person with one free admission for supervising adult. All participants must be accompanied by an adult. For information, contact Heidi Hillesheim, 90alana@shasta.com.

Creative Communication's **2010 Poetry Contest, A Celebration of Young Writers**, offers students the opportunity to have their poetry published in an anthology that will include the best entries from this region. There are four grade divisions: K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Ten writers in each grade division will receive a \$50 savings bond and a free copy of the anthology. Poems must be original, in English, and no longer than 21 lines. Please submit each poem with a title, and the following information clearly printed: the writer's name, current grade, school name, school address, teacher's name. Students can submit one entry for each contest deadline; there will be a spring, a summer and a fall contest. The Spring contest deadline is **April 12**. Turn submissions into Lynn at APL.

Walk with your canine pal, or just come and walk, in the second annual **Dog-A-Thon, May 8th, 10 am-1 pm at Haven Humane Society**, 7449 Eastside Rd., Anderson. There will be contests, prizes, animal rescue groups, merchandise, demonstrations and displays. A \$35 registration fee includes an event t-shirt and lunch. Preregistration is encouraged for individuals and teams at www.havenhumane.net or 241-5262.

There will be a **Formal Dinner/Dance** for home-schooled high school students and their teen friends on Saturday, **May 1st** from 6:30-10:30 pm at the Moose Lodge, 320 Lake Blvd. in Redding. The theme is May Day and formal attire is preferred. Dates are not required, (singles have more fun!) Tickets are \$15 per person, covering the cost of dinner and the dance. To purchase tickets, see Lynn at APL, 4/1-4/27. For more information about the event, contact Rosanne Atzet, 604-2202.

The **2010 Annual Shasta Dragonwood Celtic Faire** will be at the Anderson River Park on **May 1-2**. Celebrate the spirit of the Celtic nations with great entertainment including music, Highland games and a Renaissance village. Enjoy ethnic food and drink and merchandise native to Scotland and the Celtic fringe. Highlights of the weekend will be Black Irish Band and a hard hitting joust provided by nationally acclaimed Knights of Avalon. Enjoy some living history!

The APL high school graduation ceremony will be **Thursday, May 27th at 5:30 pm** at the McLaughlin Auditorium, 1805 Sequoia St (Sequoia School). Seniors will rehearse at **12:30 pm** on the day of graduation. And please remember that no food or drink is permitted inside the auditorium.

The graduation ceremony for 8th grade students will be **Friday, May 28th at noon at APL**. If you have yet to RSVP, please contact your teacher if you are interested in having your 8th grader participate.



APL Orientation



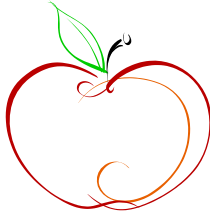
There will be no Orientation meetings during April. Orientation will resume in May for families interested in the 2010/11 school year. Orientation will be held Monday evenings in May through May 24th at 5 PM at APL, 224 Hartnell Ave. If you have friends or family looking at

school options, please consider suggesting us! Here's what we have to offer:

- K-12 program
- WASC accredited
- Curriculum choice
- Independent study

- Home school
- Classes, vendor courses & tutoring
- Flexible scheduling
- Credentialed teachers
- California standards based instruction

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 **Tutoring**   **Meetings**   **End Notes** 

APL offers opportunities for tutoring. There will be **Open Tutoring** for high school students on-site Tuesdays, 9:00-2:00, and Thursdays, 9:00-12:00. **(There will be no tutoring on-site during STAR testing.)**

Math Tutoring with Mr. Nason will be offered as follows:

Mon: 1:00-3:00 pm at the Redding Library (Please note there will be no tutoring on the following Mondays: **4/5, 4/12, 4/19** and 5/24.)

Tues: 3:30-4:30 pm at APL

Thurs: 3:30-4:30 pm at APL

Fri: 9:00 am-noon at the Local Indians for Education (LIFE) Center in Shasta Lake City. (Call 275-1513 for directions.) Also, 1:00-3:00 pm at the Anderson Library.

APL will provide tutoring at the Burney Library on an as-needed basis. Students can contact APL teacher Vanessa Burger at 276-7936 for tutoring assistance.

The APL Board Meetings are the **3rd Wednesday** of each month at **5:15 pm**, with the next meeting on **April 21st**. Barring a schedule change or special meeting, the schedule of board meetings for the rest of the school year is as follows: **4/21, 5/19** and **6/16**. APL is looking for a **community member** for our Board. It would be helpful if this person is familiar with home schooling. For more information, contact Lynn at APL, 222-9275.

The next APL Advisory Council meeting will be **Friday, April 16th at 1:30 pm**. Future meeting dates will be published in the newsletter.

April calendar: Spring Break runs through Tuesday, April 6th. The office will reopen and classes will resume on **Wednesday, April 7th.**

During STAR testing, **April 19th-30th**, all students will be doing independent study work at home as the on-site classes have been canceled.

April is an excellent month to focus on healthy living. Whether you have students preparing for the California Physical Fitness Test or you just feel the springtime urge to get physical, there are many ways to enjoy being healthy in our area. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is a wonderful place to enjoy the outdoors with hiking and water sports. More information on Whiskeytown can be obtained by calling the Visitor Center at (530) 246-1225 or visiting the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/whis>.

For information on small changes that lead to a healthy life, please visit Healthy Shasta's website at <http://healthyshasta.org> and First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move* Campaign at <http://www.letsmove.gov>.

"Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems."
Rainer Maria Rilke